Issue 113 December 2011

KNOTTING MATTERS

The Magazine of the International Guild of Knot Tyers

INTERNATIONAL GUILD OF KNOT TYERS

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The Council has decided that the stock of some of our book titles is too large to justify their expensive storage and that the best way is to make these freely available to members and prospective members. If you would like a free set of the titles below, just for the cost of postage and packing (UK £5, EU £6, Elsewhere £8.50) please email me, Colin Byfleet, at supplies@igkt.net

I am very happy to send a larger box of books if individuals or branches would like it. 20 copies of each weigh about 8kg.

Titles

The Knot Scene ***Geoffrey Budworth***

A very useful A-Z of knotting nomenclature

Knot Rhymes and Reasons ***Geoffrey Budworth***

Intriguing and whimsical knotting limericks

Knotlore 2 ***Geoffrey Budworth***

Quotes about knotting from all of recorded history

Plaited Moebius Strips ***Geoffrey Budworth***

'Tye' these to confuse and puzzle

Ropefolk ***Stuart Grainger***

Many 'beastie' knots to amuse and stimulate.

A Guide to the Multi, Single-Strand Cruciform Turk's Head by Harold 'Hal' Scott

Fairly complex Turk's Heads tied around crosses and circles

Supplies Secretary - Colin Byfleet
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Front Cover John Richings' covering to an egg is a prime example of the work of one of the finest artisans of our craft. An article about how he creates them is included on page 44.

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New password for access to member's area on igkt.net is **k5sm2f2%m?**

Letters to The Editor
The Things You Say!!

Dear Lindsey

The Zeppelin knot seems to have aroused some interest. It keeps cropping up in K.M. In issues 57 and 97. Karl Wilhelm Nilson thought he had discovered a new knot, like Ettrick Thomson in 1980. Not a bad thing, it shows knotsmen are keen to tie different knots which knotting is all about .

I have included two more knots for K.M. the Double Ringed Larks Head which is very similar to one sent in by Jim Doyle U.S.A. in K.M. 58. The second one is a Butchers Slip knot. It also has other uses. Hope someone finds a use for the knots.

Thanks for your time

Owen K Nuttall

The above mentioned knots may be viewed on page 34 - 35 - Ed

Lindsey:

Herewith a trivia question for the gardening fraternity among our members.
Q: What do the Turkshead knot and the tulip flower have in common?

All the best,
Roger Carter [***answer below and upside down - no cheating now! Ed***]

A: The Turkshead knot is so named for its supposed similarity to the folds of a turban. The tulip, though now virtually the national flower of the Netherlands, actually originated in Turkey where it was called the TULBEN, which is Turkish for turban, so named for the same reason.

If you have access to a computer, please take a look at
www.pineappleknotstutorials.over-blog.org/articles-blog.html
to see Dan's tutorials.

In Memoriam

Thoughts about a knotter - passed over the bar

SOME THOUGHTS ABOUT DAN CALLAHAN:

By this time, most of the knotting world knows about the passing of Dan Callahan of Anchorage, Alaska USA. Dan died on October 2, 2011 from complications of pancreatitis. He was 58 years old.

Dan was a friend of mine and I knew him and tied knots with him for the last eight years. I was a co-founder with him of what we now call the Anchorage Knot Tyers Club, the Alaska Branch of the IGKT.

Dan was born in Anchorage, AK but was raised in his early years in a wilderness cabin at a place called Gold Creek, north of Talkeetna, AK. His knowledge of knots and rope developed early on as it was a very necessary skill to have in living off the land in rural Alaska. As a young man, in his early working years, Dan worked in the fishing, tugboat, and lumber industries in Southeast Alaska. There his skills in rigging and knotting developed to a high level. Unfortunately, in his 30's, an industrial accident left Dan with a fused and severely deformed back that ended his work career.

Dan, being of tough character, resigned himself to living on social security disability and devoted his life to the pursuit of knot tying at an even higher degree. He developed knotting friends around the world by traveling to knot meetings in New Bedford, Mass., San Pedro, CA and to the IGKT 2K2 meeting in 2002 in the UK. In the mid 1990's he started a small business called The Knot Shoppe and built a website known as The Alaska Museum of Fancy Knots. Later he morphed that site into what is now known as The Pineapple Knot Forum. This site contains a very valuable amount of information and instruction that relates all areas of knotting. Dan was on the internet continually, searching for knot related information, discussing knots with all kinds of people, many of whom he had never personally met, and providing instruction.

The most endearing quality I believe Dan had was his generosity. If you needed to borrow a knot book, or were short of knot supplies or cordage, Dan would always share what he had. He gave many of his knots as an outright gift to knot friends around the world. And most notably he would share any knowledge he possessed to help you learn an intricate knot or solve a mistake you had made.

There were a number of knots I still wanted to learn with Dan's help, but, due to his inspiration, I'll have to figure them out myself now and learn to tie them. Dan Callahan will certainly be missed by us in the knotting world. Keep a kind thought about him and continue to develop your own knotting skills as Dan would have wanted you to. Remember a couple of his favorite sayings. They were "*So many knots, so little time*" and "*If at first you don't succeed, tie, tie again*".

Submitted by:

Charles Rigden, Anchorage, Alaska, October 2011

In Memoriam

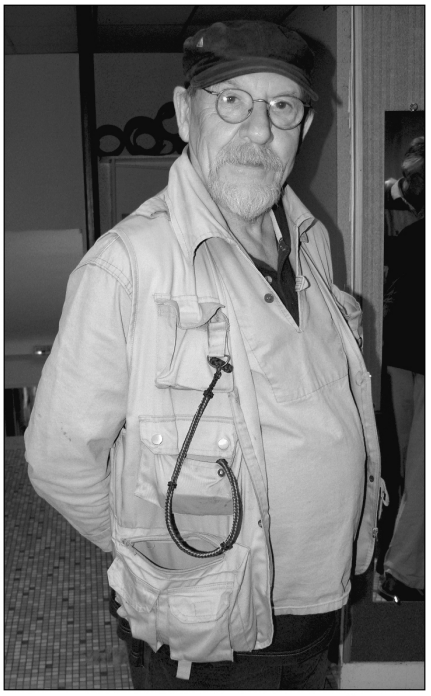
Thoughts about a knotter in France - passed, not forgotten

Bonjour à tous,

A l'ouverture du Salon Nautique à Paris, j'ai appris une bien triste nouvelle : notre ami, ***Michel Straub, est décédé.*** Nous le savions atteint d'un cancer mais il ne laissait jamais paraitre qu'il était atteint de cette saloperie.
Tout jeune membre de l'IGKT, Michel m'a toujours entouré de sa gentillesse et de ses conseils.
Tous les ans, il était sur le stand de Voiles et Voiliers au Salon Nautique pour aider Patrick à faire des démonstrations avec patience et passion.
Ce soir, il pleut, il fait gris et je pleure un de nos membres les plus fidèles et les plus gentils.
Je vais envoyer un courrier à son épouse.

Bien amicalement,

Jean-Pierre Durand
Tél : 01 34 75 89 03
Mobile : 06 64 00 66 91



Michel 2006 Caen.

Condolences also received from Patrick LeFour, Chia-Ching Dawson, Georges Bayot, Bernard Elne, Graham MacLachlan, Jean-Louis et Michelle Callier, Alfred Deitel, Nelly Louchouarn, Yves LePecque, Davesne Claude, Gabriel Richir, Al Alcosinus, Ghislaine Garguilo, Des Pawson, Isa Rachel, Paul et Maritxu and many others. May he rest in peace.

Hello,

I am working in the forensic field [***forensic is defined as relating to courts of law and the application of scientific methods and techniques to the investigation of crimes***] at the Netherlands Forensic Institute, to help police investigators in Forensic Knot Analysis. Forensic Knot Analysis is one of our tasks, besides Crime Scene Investigation and Bloodstain Pattern Examination. I am aware people like Budworth gave his expert opinion in criminal cases, but there are not a lot of persons really involved [***worldwide***]. In the past I was a member of the IGKT and decided recently to be a member again [***congratulations! - Ed.***]. Although 'fancy knotting' has not much to do with forensic investigation of knots and ligatures (that's not fancy at all most of the times), I can imagine more members work in this field. I would love to get in contact with people working in forensics and knots.
Regards
Paul van Den Hoven B Sc.
Bloodstain Pattern Expert and Forensic Expert Crime Scene
Nederlands Forensisch Instituut
p.van.den.hoven@nfi.minjus.nl

Dear Lindsey,

re: KM #112 letter by Steve Wicks; In his letter he states that the Zeppelin Bend is NOT an interlocking overhand bend (Rudi Petschek agrees with my article in KM #111 also that the Zeppelin Bend is an interlocking overhand bend). If you untie one half of a Zeppelin Bend you are left with a simple overhand knot, the two overhand knots are interlinked with the two working ends. As also can be seen in Giles Camplin's article KM #111. According to the dictionary: To join together by linking or locking; to engage or join firmly; to arrange or connect separate parts of a system so they can not be operated independently.

Thank you for your time,

Owen K. Nuttall

Dear Lindsey,

In K.M. we often read of shows and demonstrations given by our members to the general public.
What may not be appreciated by those who do not go to such events is the range of topics covered in questions from the visitors to the stand.

Following the two days spent outside the S.S. Great Britain at the Bristol Harbour Festival, which spreads for over two miles around the docks and attracts over 250,000 visitors, I made a note of those that I could remember and was surprised that the three of us who had been able to man the stand for both days had successfully answered so many topics and were not stumped by any of our interrogators. Although the depth and detail in the answers varied they always satisfied the enquirer.

I am writing this to remind people that taking part in knotting demonstrations does not just mean Turks Heads, bell ropes and key fobs, pretty though they are, but covers areas outside ornamental knots and requires an open mind with as wide a spread of knowledge as it is possible to acquire.
It also means talking to the members of the public instead of to other knotters who turn up to help out. You may have to overcome your innate shyness to attract the attention of the public but once you have stopped one customer the others will gather in a snowball effect. Look outwards from the stand and not into it and stay on your feet if possible because people do not like to talk to someone in a chair.

You may be surprised at how many things you know but did not at first relate to knot tying. Try to see how many subjects you get asked about next time you attend a knotting demonstration and how many of them you can answer.

The following list does not give the individual questions we were asked but just the topics as, after 12 hours a day on our feet, memory is not as sharp as it otherwise might have been. The questions were specific within these fields.

Abseiling, Rock and Ice climbing, Single rope technique, Double rope technique, Caving, Arborist work, Scuba diving, Old style dock work (manual handling), Cliff rescue, Merchant seamanship, Royal Navy techniques, Dog handling, Cub scouts, Boy Scouts, Girl Guides, Gardening, Lorry drivers (Truckers), Dinghy sailors, Canoeists, Narrow boaters (English canal boats), Tall ships, European barges and rivercraft, Farming, Net making, Horse harness, Falconry, Cord and ropemaking, Bushcraft, Macrame, Uniform braids and sword knots, Lace making, Crochet, Cats cradles, Samurai armour (tied with silken cords), The cost of rigging Nelson's ships, Horse ploughing, Scaffolding, Poaching, Pioneering, Pirates, Hanging, Archery, Shoe laces, Coal mining, Splicing, Solid sennit, Slings (as in David and Goliath), Gaskets, Parcel tying, Hammocks.

Good luck.

Richard Hopkins
West Country Knotters.

Dear Editor:

Membership Skills Inventory - by Jerry George, Alaska Branch

Can you translate a knotting article written in, say, Portuguese into English? Do you live near Kansas City or travel there often enough to help a local Boy Scout Troop with knotting skills? Could you judge a knotting exhibit for a State Fair? What Skills do you have that are of value to the Guild and the world of knotting? There was considerable discussion at the October, 2011 Guild meeting in Indianapolis about the need for the Guild to inventory the skills of existing members and modify the membership application to identify the skills of new members. If we had members who could help with translations, we could become more international in scope. Are you a supplier of materials or tools? Should the Guild offer links to your web pages with the caveat that the link is not a product endorsement? Can you translate with American Sign Language?

The task starts with the Council or a committee identifying what questions should be included on the questionnaire.

The following is offered as a place to start and others can expand the questionnaire to meet the needs of the Guild.

What languages do you speak?
What written languages can you translate?
Are you fluent in American Sign Language or other languages of the deaf?
Are you willing to teach knotting to youth groups such as scouts or cadets?
Are you willing to teach knotting to adult groups such as Search and Rescue, fire departments, mountain climbing club, senior center, 4H, etc.?
What genre of knots are you skilled in? What genre would you like to learn more about?

- Nautical including working knots, mats, ditty bags
- Climbing
- Decorative, Artistic, or Fancy
- Industrial - logging, commercial fishing, furniture building
- Sporting
- Fishing - sport fishing including fly tying
- Equine or cowboy
- Medical
- Leatherwork
- Rope making
- Other

Do you have skills or credentials to perform forensic work relating to knots? For example, aiding police and coroners in identifying knots used in crimes. Or assist archeologists?
Do you have the skills to judge knotting shows such as state fair exhibits?
Do you have the skills to judge knotting competitions such as multiple knot timed events?
Are you a meeting organizer?
Could you help another knotter photograph knots in progress for an instructional "how to" article for a magazine or other publication?
Could you help another knotter who is not a skilled writer to prepare an article for publication?
Can you provide graphic artist skills for knotting publications?
Do you have a reference library? [continued]

[from previous page]
Are you a supplier of cordage, tools, books or other knotting supplies? If so what general items do you supply?
Do you have skills in building museum exhibits or displays?
Do you have space to store exhibits when they are not on display?
Are you willing to donate items to Guild chapters for fund raising raffles? If so, what types of items?

Once we know the skills and interests of our members we can capitalize on this knowledge and skill base to expand our contributions to the world of knotting. *For example*, if we find that we have 60% of our members with an interest in learning more about cowboy knots and only 6% interested in learning more nautical knots, then we can seek out members with cowboy knotting skills to write articles and run workshops at Guild gatherings.

NOTE: Author claims no pride of authorship for this article. This was a topic of discussion initiated by many others at the Indianapolis, Indiana convention in October, 2011. The author was simply the first to prepare the topic for publication.

Jerry & Janet George
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Dear Lindsey,
Thank you for your work on the latest edition of Knotting Matters. Re: your comments about soap bubble enthusiasts linking up with knot tyers at the end of Keith's letter, I'm one who would be interested in taking this further. Would it be possible for you to send me a copy of the letter and your comment for the soap bubble folk to see? I could arrange for it to be sent out to the group. The soap bubblers are a 'loosely connected' international community of around 300 folk, and I think some mutually beneficial links may well be made, in one or other part of the globe.

Philip Noble, Inverness [see next page for Philip with bubble]

Above: Philip Noble states "One nice string arrangement that allows three bubbles to form and then at least one to develop in size."

The Rosendahl Bend

Well done to Giles Camplin for his investigation into the origins of the Rosendahl Bend. So often [***in life***] statements are made that soon take on the authority of fact without investigation. We knot tyers are no different, and I'm sure there are many similar facts often repeated from book to book, and with the internet; how much quicker these quotes become part of our knot lore!

I hope that more Guild members might be inspired to follow Giles' lead.

Colin Grundy

IGKT Half-Yearly Meeting 8th and 9th October, 2011

by several authors (compiled)

IGKT Half-Year Meeting 8th and 9th October 2011

The Half-Year IGKT Meeting on the 8th and 9th October 2011 was much enjoyed by some 50 members at a wonderful venue, the Gloucester Waterways Museum in Gloucester Docks, which was ideal for the purpose and had last been used by IGKT in 1988.

Members had come from as far afield as France, Ireland, the Netherlands, Yorkshire, Devon and Saul Junction. It was good to see many regulars and some newer members, too. We had plenty of space in which to spread out and there was a good quantity and quality of members' display stands.

Highlights included the visit on Sunday by a group of young Sea Cadets from *TS Gloucester*, under the leadership of Commanding Officer Sub Lt (SCC) Benjamin Nash, RNR. Guild members enjoyed their company and showing them the ropes.

"Many of our members are also boating enthusiasts" said our new President, Dr Colin Byfleet, "so it was exciting for us to welcome the Sea Cadets. We are keen to encourage their interest in the craft of knot tying, and recognise the great importance of involving the younger generation."

Our newest member - and possibly the youngest - 14-year-old Tanis Kingston from the Forest of Dean, was proud to be part of the Guild's demonstrations. Trained by member Ben Selfe, fender-maker from Saul Junction, Tanis so impressed Guild members with his enthusiasm and commitment that we presented him with a Swedish fid in recognition of his excellent work over the weekend.

When we weren't knotting, members particularly enjoyed a tour of Tommi Nielsen's dry dock and boatyard, one of the very few left in the country building traditional wooden boats. We were impressed to see the hull of the *Massey Shaw*, historic vessel and former London Fire Brigade fireboat, built in 1935 and currently undergoing restoration. We also saw a new teak foremast being made for Nelson's *HMS Victory* in Portsmouth dockyard, where several IGKT members had spent time the previous week teaching youngsters knot-tying there too.

Several of the 50+ attendees found time to enjoy a trip down the canal aboard the Cotswold Canal Trust's trip boat, *Perseverance*, crewed by Clive and Gill Field and brought up from Saul Junction for the purpose. Many took a tour of *Sula,* the historic lightship moored at Llanthony Quay, and even did some early Christmas shopping in their (literally) dazzling gift shop.

IGKT Pres
and possib
a Swedish
enthusiasn

Back inside the Waterways Museum, founder member and former President, Des Pawson, gave an illustrated talk on the history of rope-making, enthusiastically sharing his extensive knowledge and providing an overview of the world of rope-making, including information about (and some carefully researched pictures of) the ropewalks found in many local towns and villages, until the advent of mechanised rope-making in the early 20th Century.

Ben Asber
covering a
the raffle.

On the Saturday evening, the knot tyers visited Vinings restaurant for an excellent buffet-style evening meal. We much appreciated the staff's cheerful hospitality and the delicious variety of dishes. The success of this meal went a long way in offsetting the rather disappointing lunch provided by another nearby restaurant.

Our new President guided proceedings with a gentle touch, so the atmosphere at the 2011 Half-Yearly Meeting was more informal than usual. A good time was had by all and most of us agreed Gloucester Waterways Museum and Docks was one of our best venues. We must ensure it won't be another 20 years before we return for a future meeting.

IGKT President Dr Colin Byfleet presenting our newest and possibly youngest member, Tanis Kingston, with a Swedish fid in recognition of his commitment and enthusiasm.

IGKT member, Jeff Wyatt, retired engineer from Dunstable, shows the visiting Sea Cadets how it's done.

Ben Asberg, retired merchant seaman from Rotterdam, covering a large bottle, which he generously donated to the raffle.

Willeke holding another swing braiding class - in the USA we have swing dance classes also!

Llanthony Warehouse, venue of the National Waterways Museum and IGKT meeting

Notes from A Knotting Widow Secretary

This is the late autumn edition of KM, which means that another year will shortly be at an end; how quickly the years go by. Plans are well under way for the 2012 AGM to be held in Hoylake, a lovely part of North West England. More information will follow shortly.

The half-yearly [***UK***] meeting went well at Gloucester Docks at the British Waterways Museum. About 66 people attended with several visitors during the weekend. We had a very enjoyable meal in a local restaurant that had been built into one of the disused warehouses in Gloucester docks. In fact the front of the restaurant looked like a rusty box, this was because it had been made from the rusty hulls of some of the many boats that had died a death in the docks; how is that for re-cycling! I am sure there will be many photos to follow further on [***centrespread***] in the magazine, taken at the meeting. The very kind volunteers that run the British Waterways Museum could not have been more helpful, even going so far as to encourage people to come up and visit us in the upstairs rooms and then not charging the people for coming into the museum.

The Council has recently taken steps to run more efficiently by using modern technology and its capabilities of quick access and sharing of information, discussion and ultimately voting, by agreeing to electronic voting on more minor proposals that it has to deal with. Taking decisions on the more minor proposals in this manner will free up time in the face-to-face meetings for decisions that require longer discussion and consideration without the need for extra physically-attended meetings, which are both costly and time consuming. If technology is there, it is a shame not to use it.

So, here's hoping that those of you who celebrate the festive season do so in the best possible way, and to all a very happy New Year. I know you will all be groaning about how early these wishes come to you, but I make no apology.
Yours in Knotting, Margaret, Secretary

Original macrame wall-hanging by Geoffrey Budworth - Thank you!

Jottings From Our President

- There were two simultaneous meetings of members - one in Gloucester, UK, and another in Indianapolis, USA, at the beginning of October and it was good to have a 20 minute video link between the European (UK, France and the Netherlands) and the American groups. It would be good if this type of contact could become the norm.
- Next year will be the thirtieth anniversary of the Guild's foundation in 1982. As part of the celebrations to mark the occasion, the Council has commissioned the printing of a book bringing together the series of articles by Clifford Ashley originally published in Sea Stories under the general title "*A Sailor And His Knots*" in 1925. Des Pawson has kindly allowed us to use his original copies and to digitally clean the images; and Ashley's daughter, Phoebe Chardon, has provided us with a photograph of her father from that time and has agreed to write a foreword for this publication. The book will be sent, without charge, to all members as a soft-bound copy and there will also be a commemorative hard-bound version available by subscription. The book should make an interesting companion to The Ashley Book of Knots, which has been such an inspiration to the knotting world. We hope to have firm details of the price and ordering procedure for the bound version in the next issue of Knotting Matters.
- At the 10th anniversary of the Guild in 1992, a history of the Guild, Much Ado About Knotting, was written by Geoffrey Budworth, who then extended this publication at the 20th anniversary in 2002. Another press-ganged scribe is now in the process of adding material for the last ten years and hopes to have it ready for the AGM at Hoylake in May.
- In the last Knotting Matters [***#112***], I asked if any member would like any or some of the collection of knotboards (see photos at www.igkt.net/knot-gallery/main.php) constructed for the 1986 exhibition. We have had one reply for the return to the maker of a few boards. If you would like the remaining boards, do please let me know. We do have a complete photographic record of the knots, taken in 1986, by Jan Vos, and, of the surviving boards, in 2010.

By the time this reaches you, many of us will be looking forward to Christmas celebrations and a large proportion of our members will be recovering from Thanksgiving. We shall all be about to celebrate a New Year and I hope all of these occasions will be peaceful and happy for everyone.

The Language of Knots

by 'Knut Canute'

the 9th (and penultimate) instalment on a philosophy of knots

The language of knots – for existing devotees, or to awaken the dormant knotting bug in others, and to challenge those twerps who treat knots as a joke – should comprise scatter-&-splatter shotgun blasts aimed at a wide audience as well as sniped single shots to hit selected individuals. And the knot gurus one sees and hears at Guild displays, demonstrations and workshops are indeed effective preachers and proselytisers, their fluent tongues and deft fingers combining with the mute appeal of the cordage itself to exert a palpable attraction for onlookers.

Then again, since the IGKT was established in 1982, Guild members have written more than 100 new publications not counting their contributions to Knotting Matters. With mainstream starter books and specialist manuals (often self-published), they have enlivened what was once a lacklustre genre. Because of them knotting has benefited from a quantum leap in coverage. Indeed it may be that there are now more than enough basic knot books, but that is no reason to quit ''pushing the envelope' (to borrow an aviation industry expression) with the dissemination of innovative terms, tools and techniques.

Language, its argot and grammar, syntax and style, flavoured with rhythm and rhyme, wit and whimsy, should reflect the spirit – or zeitgeist (as the literati and twitterati like to say) – of its period. The outmoded archaic lingo of long-dead master riggers and maritime lexicographers has its place; but our latter-day vernacular must be … well, vernacular.

Passé or contemporary, some knotty word forms are mere denotative labels, neutral and without bias or bigotry: for instance, a round turn & two half-hitches. Connotative terms, in contrast, are loaded with attitude (some of it bad). The snide granny knot and dismissive left-handed bowline both imply users who are inept, maladroit or perverse. Ought we therefore to morph granny knot into, say, granary knot, and replace 'left-handed' with some inoffensive alternative? Because, labelling or loaded, our jargon may irk other people and so we must choose with care what we say and write.

There is, nevertheless, a regrettable lack of knotting imagery. Perhaps KM readers could submit a haiku on a hammock clew, an ode to the oyersterman's stopper, a sonnet about a shroud knot, or a knotty short story; while the organizers of Guild gatherings might arrange a display of knot paintings, drawings and/or artful photographs.

The language of knots should preserve and promote our time-honoured repertoire; celebrate its on-going evolution; anticipate future developments; and give us, its exponents and advocates, an effective voice.

Application for Membership

by

David Baugh

I have never been a member of a Guild, so I am uncertain as to what exactly is expected of a Guild member. Shouldn't I expect to serve as an apprentice for some period of time before I achieve full Guild member status? Furthermore, an *International Guild* must have even higher expectations in order to be considered qualified as an International Knot Tyer, right? Well, I looked all over the International Guild of Knot Tyers' website in order to find what was expected of me before I presumed to apply for membership.

I became interested in tooling and then braiding leather about 3 years ago. Rather an unexpected hobby for a sixty-plus-year old Chemical Engineer. Inevitably, I bought a copy of Ashley and ten minutes of thumbing through that encyclopedia got me so enthralled with marlinspike seamanship that I began collecting books on knots and playing with pieces of string. Does any of that sound familiar to you?

It occurred to me that of all the possible projects The International Guild of Knot Tyers might require, building a sea chest complete with nice beckets might be acceptable. Hopefully, if the sea chest were of passable quality, that would qualify a candidate for apprenticeship in the Guild. So that became my next project and my challenge.

After a bit of research on the internet, two sets of plans for a sea chest were secured and the most difficult design was selected for construction. It made no sense for me to attempt the wood construction so the services of my nephew, Charles, were secured. Charles is a Mechanical Engineer who enjoys making furniture in his spare time. The agreement between us stipulated there were to be no time limits or schedule. This had to be a labor of love and a pleasant diversion and not a source of friction between us. Now the excitement really began to build.

Our first joint task was to find the wood. This was a tough job! Osage orange, rosewood, teak, basswood, bloodwood, ebony, koa, cherry, maple, ash, bubinga, blackwood, tigerwood mahogany, lignum vitea are all beautiful. After careful consideration, I finally decided to use Oregon Myrtlewood. I was born and raised in Oregon so it seemed appropriate to use a hardwood from my native land. I found a fabulous supplier, Northwest Timber (www.nwtimber.net), who was willing to help with woodworking advice and encouragement. Charles and I looked over several lots and we selected this one:

Oregon Myrtlewood

Now the work begins! The dimensions were established at 32" wide x 16" deep x 17" tall and Charles began working his magic. Wood working is definitely not for me so I am thankful Charles was willing to step up to this challenge. Here is one of his progress photos.

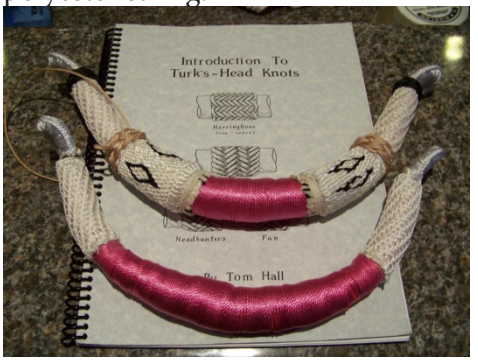
Sea chest joinery

Meanwhile, I began learning about beckets and sorting through all the possible knots and techniques needed to make really nice beckets worthy of a guild member. Ashley has several pages of examples and some spectacular beckets are available for sale on the internet. It seems to me the beckets must showcase as many techniques of marlinespike seamanship as possible. They should have good examples of knotting, splicing, hitching, pointing, worming, parceling, serving and cockscombing.

I began the search for the correct materials to use and decided not to use authentic lines or canvas. I want these beckets to be strong and usable so 21st century materials were collected for the beckets. However, I did find some nice tarred marline to use for worming, so that the beckets would have an authentic aroma.

Beckets under construction

The beckets are made from 3/8" nylon rope with eye splices on each end, wormed with tarred marline, parceled with red duck cloth and served with tarred marline and moused with red nylon masonry string and more duck cloth. The eyes were then cockscombed with polyester cord. I found a spiral pointing in Graumont's Encyclopedia, (page 211, Plate 108, figure 41) I liked so that began the final covering. The pointing was done in nylon masonry string from a local hardware store. That was followed with hitching with white and black cotton string and shiny polyester string.



Pointing and hitching

A black 7-bight, 3-part, 3-ply Turks-head covers the transition from cockscombing to pointing and a gold 7-bight, 3-part, 3-ply Turks-head covers the transition between pointing and hitching. The Turks-head knots were done with braided 1.2 mm and 1.8 mm nylon cord respectively to help transition to the fatter sections of the becket.

Finished Becket

The final knot is a 7-bight, 42-part, 3-ply Turks-head made with 1.8 mm gold, silver and black braided nylon cord. The through piece [**bolt**] was tied from ½" nylon rope with Manrope knots on each end, wormed with tarred marline, parceled with red duck cloth and served with more tarred marline. Pinked leather washers were made for each end to prevent the cockscombing from rubbing against the wood cleats. When completed, the sea chest was lightly stained and finished with a clear spar varnish. Here at last is the finished project.

Completed Sea Chest
ready for unrestricted duty

Last week I added some decorative knots to the top tray.

With the completion of this project, I hereby respectfully ask to be accepted as a knot tyer with all the rights and privileges pertaining thereto.
My Very Best Regards to All,

David Baugh
from the Panhandle of Texas

The Fisherman's Fall Festival

by

Joe Schmidbauer

The Fisherman's Fall Festival in Ballard, Washington is an annual event that benefits the Seattle Fisherman's Memorial. Pat Ducey has been attending this now for several years, ever since Clint Funk suggested the Guild get involved with it. He was joined this year by Joe Schmidbauer, who recently moved into the Puget Sound area, and Maggie Machado who drove up from Scappoose, Oregon to join the fun.

The Festival started at 11:00 AM but it takes time to get set up and ready. So, Joe, along with his wife Linda, met Pat at his place in Shoreline at 9:00 AM for the drive to the Fisherman's Terminal. Pat had arranged a double-space booth for us so there was plenty of space for everyone. As we were setting up the day did turn gloomy and it even sprinkled for a short time. The weather turned, the sun came out and the rest of the day was pretty nice.

Once things got going, it was a busy day with a large crowd of people constantly walking by. This Festival has a lot to offer not to mention the wonderful Salmon Feast, a Crab Melt or some Bacon Wrapped Scallops (did I mentioned Seattle being a great place for seafood?). There were also a lot of other booths that highlighted the waterfront industry and businesses. It was really more interesting than that sounds and it was fun to walk around and check out all that was on display. There was a survival suit team race (in the water of course), a salmon fillet challenge and a Lutefish eating contest. Good fun.

So let's get back to our booth.

Pat filled a table with his knot work along with the rope cross made by Pat and Roy Chapman at a past Festival. He also set out the knot training table and used it to draw in and challenge many of people as they passed by. Pat was also showing everyone how to work an Eskimo yo-yo. For those who have not seen one in action, it is hard to explain but he made it look easy with one twirling one way and the other the opposite way. During the day there were a number of people who knew exactly what it was, picked it up and had a go.

Joe and Maggie set up on the other table with lots of knot items to looks at and lots of questions coming in. Maggie had a number of her split-ply pieces and her different Wee Blast Mats – one made from old t-shirts and one made from rags; very creative and a clever use of left-over materials. Joe set up his Wee Blast Mat jig in the booth itself and started weaving rope to make a mat. It took some time because he kept going back and forth answering questions from passers-by and talking about or teaching a knot or two. He eventually moved the jig outside the booth for the final lock tucks back and forth through the mat. This is when he got the kids involved (hand them a rope end, tell them to pull) and they loved it! The parents would cheer them on and other people would gather to watch.

All in all, the crowd seemed very interested in knots and knotting and some even had their own knot adventures to relate. There were many very pleasant and personable people willing to spend time listening to a convoluted explanation or viewing a complicated demonstration.

A very worthwhile event and we definitely plan to attend again next year.

Mystery Hook

At Guild member Drayton Parker's deployment party for a US Coast Guard tour in the Middle East, he presented me with this antique metal hook. He found it at an old nautical swap shop at the reduced price of $2.50 down from $10 (USD). To know Drayton is to recognize that he has a knack of finding, at low prices, all sorts of nautical items and knows immediately their history and value.

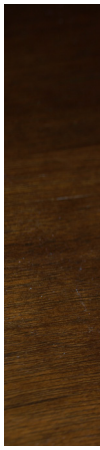
With a smile on his face, all he would tell me was that he knew that I had seen it, somewhere. Yet his real hidden agenda was to watch me desperately search my brain to try and identify it and come up with its intended usage. Well, after an hour or more, a few beverages and southern BBQ to eat, I was quite dumbfounded about having ever seen it anywhere and could only come up with wild guesses of its usage with cordage. A great amount of discussion cropped up amongst all of the guests as to what it was, including knot tyers, sailors and the captain and professional crew of the sailing tall ship the *Spirit of South Carolina*.

After a while of entertainment and laughter at our expense, Drayton offered up a clue, the number 1972. My response to this was a puzzled, "Gee, thanks." In the end, we only managed to figure out its intended application and had to ask where we would have seen it.

With the answer in hand and a little bit of embarrassment of not remembering it, I decided to repeat the fun by bringing the hook to the May, 2011 AGM in Coventry and then to the North American Branch (NAB) meeting held in Indianapolis in October.

I too just asked, "What is it and where have you seen it". Oh and the clue, 1972.

The heart-filled discussions, on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean, proceeded about the same with much laughter and confusion as to the hook's purpose. The clue did not seem to add any help either. However in each location, one person did finally reveal the answers without my having to disclose them.



At the AGM, the use of an iPhone was employed and used to search a PDF for its picture. A Guild member from Britain, whose name I am afraid I have forgotten, joined in after the debate had been going for close to an hour. Upon seeing it, he remembered where he had seen it and brought it up on his phone. In the USA, at the NAB meeting, one individual finally knew right from the start its purpose, and where it was mentioned in press, Don Burrhus. Don not only knew about the hook but also had seen it in use on a farm in his home state of Massachusetts.

The answer: The hook is described in Ashley's Book of Knots, #1972, and is intended to be used to secure a clothesline.

W. A. Perry, from New Bedford, Massachusetts, patented the hook in 1887. I thank David Fred (USA), who researched and sent me the following patent link.
http://www.google.com/patents?id=OZtMAAAAEBAJ

It is interesting to note that Clifford Ashley was also from New Bedford and a young lad of 5 when the hook was patented.

Smooth turns
Dan Machowski

Tools, books, tapes, cord, blanket - what more could a knotter want?

Ben and Holly Day, our spe

Clive Sandrey gives his local knowl

NAB and UK members enjoying their supper together - very enjoyable!

Tommy Nielsen explains about the timber destined for a Severn Trow

lly Day, our special visitors!

his local knowledge on *Perseverance*

The view from the west - three past Presidents!

The view from the east? Well, the east of the Atlantic, anyway!

Ken Elliot, Solent Branch member, starting another of his intricate bottle coverings.

The UK Inland Waterways Group.

We have just attended our last show for 2011, that being the International Model Boat Show at the Foss Exhibition centre near Warwick. This is a wonderful show of model Boats and all thing's related.
I attended the show some seven years ago and I was very impressed by the Model Boats but not by the fenders on them. So I found the Organizer and suggested that if they could find us some space perhaps we might be able to educate the modellers on how to make better fenders for their models, and we have been doing just that ever since. Also we show splicing of thin line and miniature rope making.

The Team this year consisted of: (L to R). Colin Grundy, Ken Nelson, Bruce Turley, Jeff Wyatt, Clive Sandrey.
I think that it is working, as this year I did notice a slight improvement on a few models but we have a long way to go.

Ken Nelson.

Editor's note: Ken sent the above photographs of some of the magnificent small work done to enhance the models. Top to bottom, L then R: Eye splice, button fender, hanging fender, cabin strings, four small fenders and a bow pudding.

How I Did It

by Owen Nuttall

DOUBLE RINGED LARK'S HEAD

The Lark's Head is a knot with more different names than any other knot. When the trend started, using the knot to tie a scarf around the neck, I heard the fashion designers on TV refer to it as a Chelsea Knot or a Paris Knot. I wonder if women realise that one name for this knot is the Cow Hitch? Tied in a scarf, this is a simple, easily-adjusted slip knot.
To take the Lark's Head a stage further, making it more decorative and less prone to slipping, I came up with the Double Ringed method.
This can be tied on a bight (as in the drawings) making it a good puzzle knot, or a decorative belt for a woman's dress.
To tie the Double Ringed Lark's Head, after pulling a double bight through the top loops as in Fig. 1, repeat the same as seen in Fig. 2. To complete the knot a little adjusting may be necessary.

LUDDITE SLIP KNOT

There are numerous methods of tying a slip knot, from a simple over-hand loop to the most easily recognised, the Hangman's Noose. So where to place another slip knot? I looked in Ashley's Book of Knots in the section on Butcher's Knots and came up with the Luddite Slip Knot for Butchers.
I showed this slip knot to Dave Walker at this year's AGM with his interest in butchers knots. He said there were numerous butchers knots, but he had not seen this one before.
One advantage of the Luddite slip knot was when pulled up tight, it held securely without the need for further hitching, unlike other butchers knots. If the crossings at A-B-C are reversed, it makes a slightly more bulky butchers knot.

LUDDITE SLIP KNOT

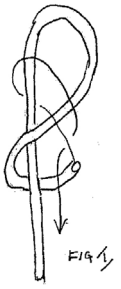


FIG I

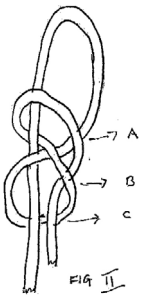


FIG II

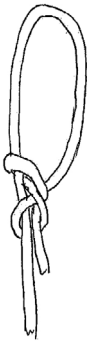
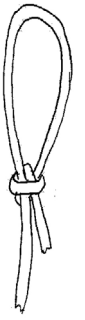


FIG III



FACE OF KNOT WHEN TIGHTENED

DOUBLE RINCED LARKSHEAD

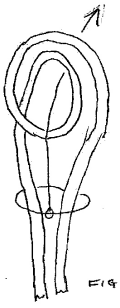


FIG I

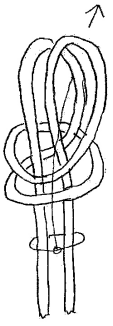
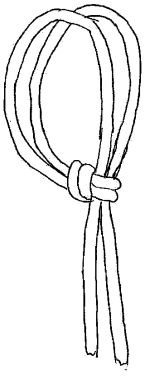
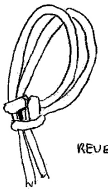


FIG II



FACE OF LARKS, HEAD.



REVERSE OF KNOT.

NORTH AMERICAN BRANCH - IGKT
OCTOBER, 2011

The simultaneous meetings of the NAB and the UK contingents at opposite sides of the Atlantic Ocean proved no hindrance to the enjoyment of both groups. They even managed a link over the ocean to ensure they could stay in touch with each other. The very full agenda of classes and meeting subjects ensured that no-one at the NAB was going to go to sleep for the entire weekend. Attending from the UK were Bruce and Linda Turley together with three more special visitors, the family of Cyrus Day in the form of his son and daughter, Ben and Margaret. Ben's wife Holly also attended and put together a display case (she is a former Indianapolis Museum of Art curator) of Cyrus Day's personal artifacts, loaned for the occasion by his son and daughter. A full report of the events of the knotting weekend will appear in the next InterKnot newsletter of the NAB, so this report is just a taste of what will be there.

THE ART OF KNOTTING AND SPLICING
Knots & Splices
knopen & splitsen
ELEVEN LEADS
TEN LEADS
NINE LEADS
EIGHT LEADS
SEVEN LEADS
SIX LEADS
FIVE LEADS
FOUR LEADS
THREE LEADS
KNOT TOOLS BELONGING TO CYRUS DAY
All knot photographs found in Cyrus Day's The Art of Knotting and Splicing were taken by him. Many of the photographs used the knot tools in this exhibition case. The text and photographs in the case are photocopies made from this book. The knots shown on the rungs were tied by him for the purpose of making these photographs.

A portion of the very well laid-out display case of Cyrus Day's work

The schedule of formal classes and discussions held over the weekend, with informal gatherings at every opportunity from breakfast to supper.

International Guild of Knot Tyers
North American Branch
2011 Guild Meeting
Indianapolis, Indiana

Classroom Schedule

	Meeting Room 709	Meeting Room 716		Other Locations ~ TBA
Friday - PM classes				
2:00 to 3:30	**Tips, Tricks & Traps in Complex Turks Heads & Globe Knots** Don Burrhus	**Mats & Mat Weaving** J.P. Honeywell	2:00 2:30 3:00	
3:30 to 5:00	**Turks Head Knots** **9x17 Turks Head Techniques** Gary Summers	**Bottle Covering - I** **Starting Small** Lilly Morales	3:30 4:00 4:30	
Saturday - AM classes				
9:00 to 10:30	**Bell Ropes** **Construction & Methods** Joe Bates	**Bottle Covering - II** **What comes Next** Lilly Morales	9:00 9:30 10:00	
10:30 to 12:00	**Eskimo Yo-Yos** Jerry George	**Mats & Mat Weaving** J.P. Honeywell	10:30 11:00 11:30	
Saturday - Lunch	12:00 ~ Skype Conference with Guild Member in the UK Meet Guild President Colin Byfleet & others		12:00 12:30	
Saturday - PM classes				
1:00 to 2:30	**Teaching Skills** Gary Summers	**Bottle Covering - III** **Bring it Home** Lilly Morales	1:00 1:30 2:00	
2:30 to 4:00	**Knotting Matters / InterKnot** **Getting Published** Lindsey Philpott & Glenn Dickey	**Dragon Fly & Solomon Man** Bruce Turley	2:30 3:00 3:30	
Sunday - AM classes				
9:00 to 10:30	**Bell Ropes** **Construction & Methods** Joe Bates	**Tips, Tricks & Traps in Knotting** **Open Forum Discussion** Jerry George	9:00 9:30 10:00	
10:30 to 12:00	**Netting** Lilly Morales	**Sailor's Crafts** Robert Black	10:30 11:00 11:30 12:00 12:30	
Sunday - PM classes			1:00	
1:30 to 3:00	**Paracord Bracelets & Star Knot Pins** John DeWilde	**Herringbone Mini-Fenders** Don Burrhus	1:30 2:00 2:30	

How I Did It

by Dave Lambert

THE ANATOMY OF NEEDLE HITCHING

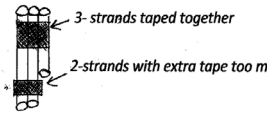
Tools Needed: Two needles and a spacer (you make the spacer - see below and page at right)

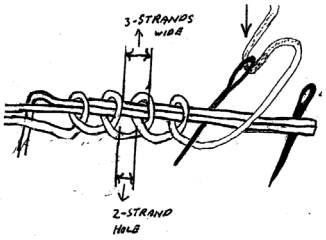
Use the same cord that is going to be used for the project to make the spacer of three strands taped together (top L). Why three strands? The first row of hitches will be three strands apart. When the second row of hitches is put in, they have a two-strand hole to be put through, so this leaves you with a one strand space between the hitches (rows). NB The lowest spacer you can use to start with is 2.5 strands, this will give you one-half strand space between hitches (rows).

Start by taping the cord down, about half an inch. Wrap the cord around once, then on the second wrap, lay the cord on top of the first wrap, NOT side by side (center L). The cord will be slack at first (lower L). This is needed for all the hitches to get under the two cords. Tighten the hitches by pulling up and then lay the hitch down (top, center and R). After the first two rows are done, measure along the cord about 12 inches and put the needle there. Hitch the third row and measure again to see how much cord it took for one row. It takes three rows to add a new strand. Add the new strand when you have four lengths left on the cord.

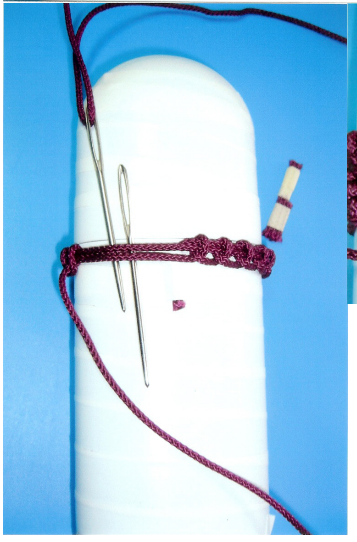
Adding a new strand (lower 4 photos and finished addition on R)

The first row, lay the strand up through the loop and pull the hitch tight. On the second row, hitch UNDER the new strand. On the third row, move the new strand up and hitch under the loop strand and then pull down. This is when the new strand takes over and starts hitching. On the fourth row, hitch under the old strand and this locks all the strands in.





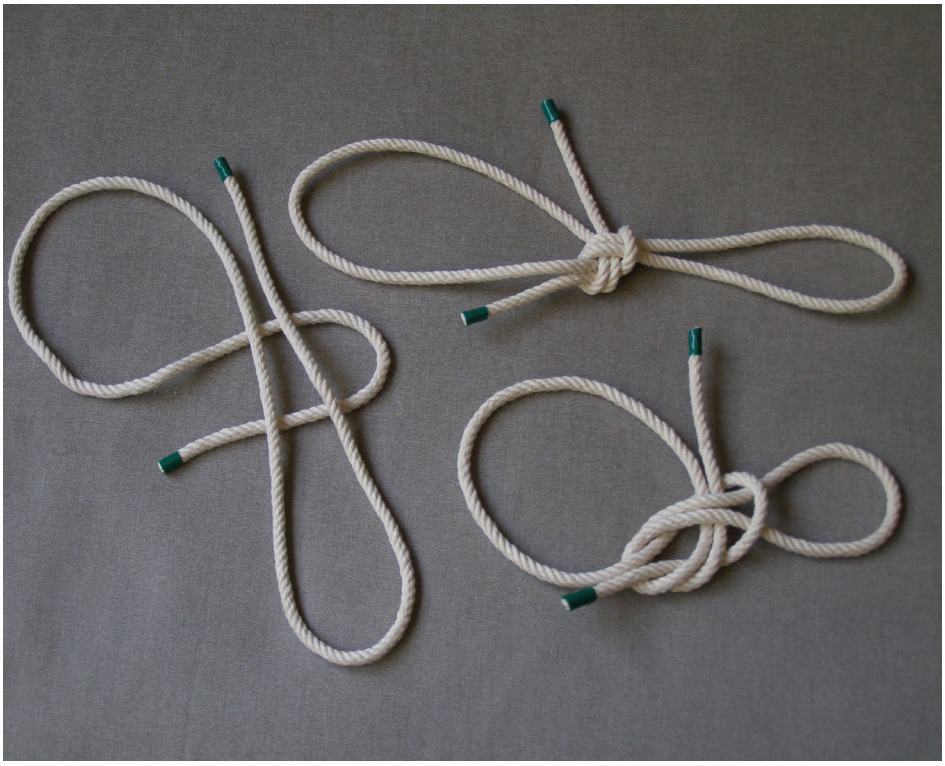
The extra needle Is to put ahead of The working need- le , gives you space to get under the two strands.



How I did It

by
John Heselton

This knot properly belongs to my dissertation on Sheet Bends [KM 110] but got left off the list. It is a twin-loop, formed with a Sheet Bend Knot. The photograph shows the method of construction. A small bight is overlaid with a larger bight - the ends being disposed as pictured. Then, grasping the structure between thumb and forefinger, the larger bight is brought around the back of the knot, up through the left loop and then down through the smaller bight. The loops may be equalized and the twist taken out of the cord before the knot is tightened. I call this knot a Single Strand, Twin-Eye, Sheet Bend (phew! another mouthful).



HUNTER'S BEND REVISITED

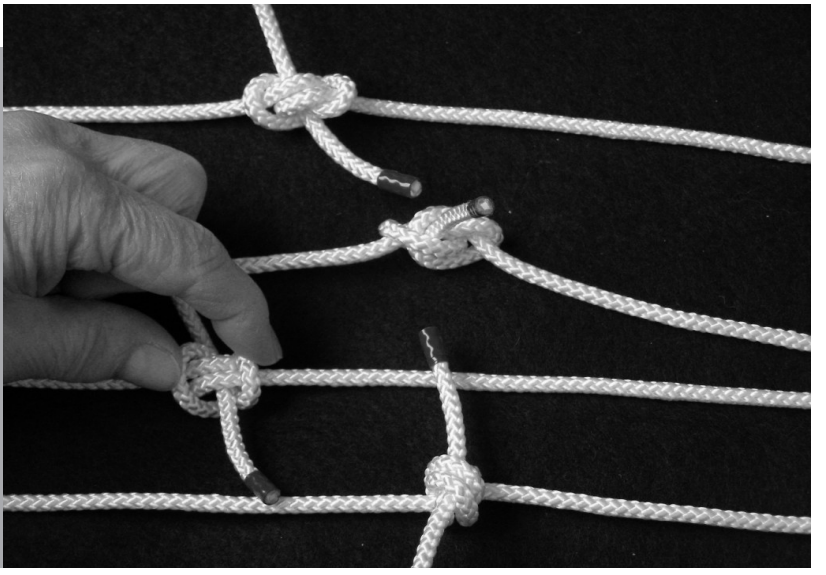
Distortion is the enemy of the integrity of any knot. Bends and loop knots made in the bight share the characteristic of being mid-way between opposing forces. For minimal distortion then, it follows that the standing parts of the knot should emerge from the knot in a co-linear and co-planar configuration. For this reason, I have long thought that the Hunter's Bend was inadequate in this regard (despite it being such a secure knot). The Zeppelin Knot has an even worse aspect.

I have discovered that the knot may be easily configured to overcome this defect. If the knot is tied loosely and then the bights from which the standing parts emerge are brought together over the 'top' of the knot and all parts tightened in this configuration, then the knot performs almost perfectly with the requirements as stated above.

The photograph shows the sequence: at the top is the bend as it is normally tied below which is a side view which clearly shows the standing parts emerging at a compound angle to each other. The bights are then brought together as shown and the finished knot is shown below. I believe that this is an improvement of that which is essentially a secure knot.

How I did It - Hunter's Bend

by John Heselton

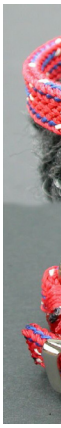


From the Editor's Blotter

The last time I made comments here was for our September issue #112, and here it is December already. Our antipodean friends are enjoying summer, while some in the northern hemisphere are in thrall of winter. I learned from a posting to our website Forum that there may be as many as 170,000 members of a decorative knot-tying group in the East - quite puts our small number to shame, doesn't it? True, they may have more people to select from - wait a minute - WE also have the same number to ask from (7,006,701,200 and growing with 69,000,000 or more added this year so far!) and their percentage is 0.002% of the world's population, compared to our 0.65% of THEIR membership. So why have we only got such a small fraction of people from around the world joining our group? Is it our language? Is it our manners? Things to think about..... Let me know your thoughts, please!

In addition to thinking about world connectivity (see others' postings in this issue) I have been contemplating the future, following the long discussions on the subject of future tense at the North American Branch meeting in October this year (see letters). What do you plan to do with your knotting-related stuff after you shuffle off this mortal coil? I was initially thinking I would will it to my wife, but that may be saddling her with some heavy responsibility that she does not need. I have a substantial collection of books and knotting paraphernalia that I know will be useful as a reference source - but who cares? The Guild has no museum or even any plans for one, Des Pawson's Museum of Ropework is the only one of its kind in the world and I doubt he or his successors will be interested. Should it go to the recycle plant? Is the effort worth anything to anyone but me? Things to think about again... What will history be in the future?

I feel sure there are many who will be celebrating the winter solstice - so my warm thoughts surround you all, whatever your secular persuasion. Happily knotting through life.....



How I Did It

by
Mac MacKenzie

Hi Lindsey,

I'm just sending some pics for consideration. A 32-strand oblong solid sinnet being worked (back cover). A pair of cat collars that I'd put together some years ago (also 32-strand oblong solid sinnet). Lastly, a mix of solid sinnets, mostly expanded versions of Ashleys (68-strand oblong, 46-strand triangular, 50-strand square, pentagon) with a 91-strand pentalpha resting along the top. All these were made with Marlow #4 waxed whipping twine except the pentalpha, made with jute twine.

Thanks,
Mac MacKenzie (Sydney, Australia)

Spherical Covering Knots

by John Richings

The following is a not-too-long illustrated description of how I construct the larger facetted knots. I'm well aware there are many knotters out there with greater experience and skill with these knots……..so my method is from a novice's viewpoint.

Starting with the grid (Fig 1) and algorithms, I do the initial stringing on a large diameter cardboard tube (Fig 2). – this way I hope to avoid errors that could occur if the tube is so small that stringing is crowded.

Once the initial stringing is done, we need to reduce the overall height of the knot and, eventually, its overall diameter to suit the diameter of ball, or in this case egg, that we are using. Gradually reposition the pins on the tube to close up the overall height of the knot (Figs 3 and 4).

Having reduced the overall height of the knot to something closer to half the circumference of the ball, now is the time to carefully remove all the pins and slide the knot onto a smaller diameter tube and re-pin (Figs 5,6 and 7)……I'd go for a tube diameter rather less than the ball diameter so that when you finally transfer to the ball, the knot is a bit tight around the "equator" area.

So now we're at the stage where we've adjusted the knot's overall height and diameter to suit the ball we're using. Before transferring to the "ball" I insert a stick at each pole. This, I find, helps in maintaining alignment of the "poles" of the knot during the crucial finishing stages. I find that balls and eggs over 60mm diameter are readily available in expanded polystyrene (Styrofoam) in Craft/Hobby shops. Up to that size I tend to use wood beads and balls (even golf balls). In transferring the knot to the ball/egg, make sure the bights of the knot are correctly positioned around the "polar sticks". Once on the ball/egg I pin the bights to the ball. As I gradually take the slack out of the knot the pin positions will be altered (Figs 8,9 and 10)

In taking the slack out of the knot, patience is essential. Eventually as you remove the slack (but don't make it too tight so that you've some freedom to evenly align the knot on the ball), gradually remove the pins. There are two areas on the knot where care is needed to avoid over tightening……..at the poles where "gathering" of the knot can lead to lack of coverage at the "equator" area. Also I make particular care that the innermost bights of each of the nests are correctly positioned. At this point you'll be able to judge whether you have sufficient space to make the knot 2 ply (Figs 11 and 12).

It's worthwhile keeping details of the length and diameter of cord you use to make the knot. Obviously you'll have used a greater length for the initial stringing…..don't cut the excess off. If you know the starting length and the length of spare cord after tying the single ply, you'll know whether you have sufficient to complete it at 2 ply. I use nylon 8 plait cord, which I dye because I find that the original white tends to discolour over a period of time.

The example shown is a 378 facet covering made on an 80mm high egg using 1.8mm cord. For balls, I use 4 bight nests top and bottom but for eggs I find 3 bight nests are best.

At this stage I must acknowledge the inspiration and expertise of my Gallic friends, particularly Charles Hamel and Claude Hochet.

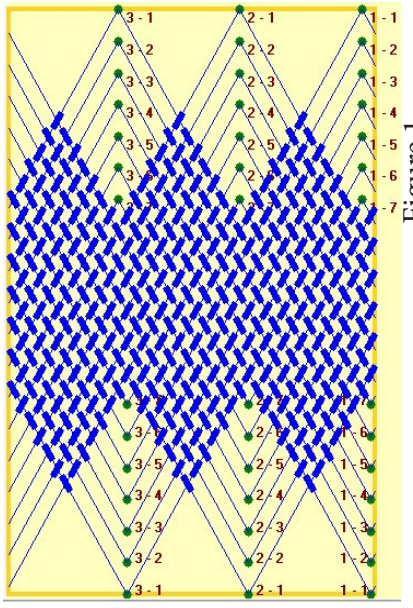


Figure 1

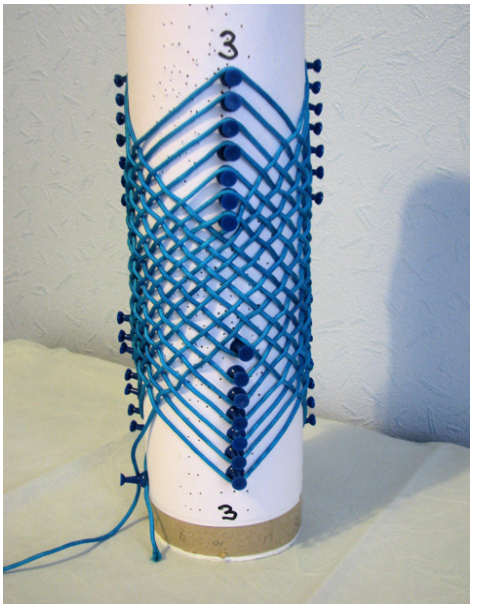


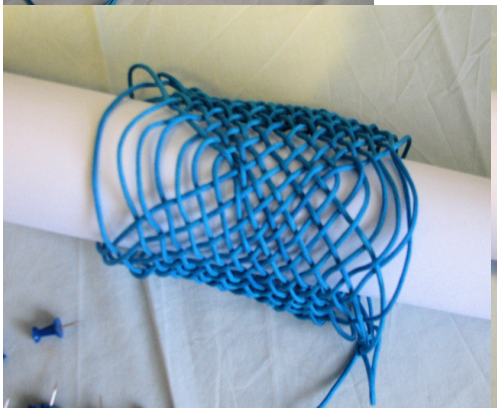
Figure 2

Figure 3 (left)

Figure 4 (right)

Figure 5 (center, left)

Figure 6 (center, right)



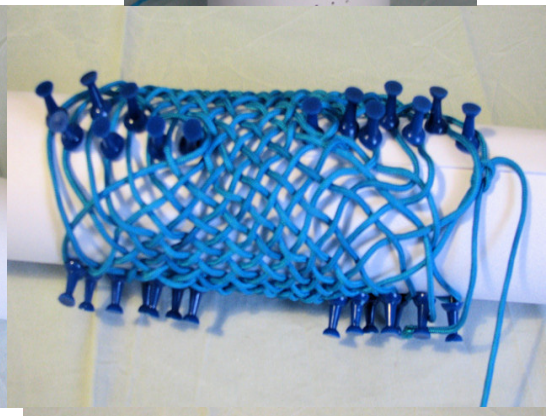
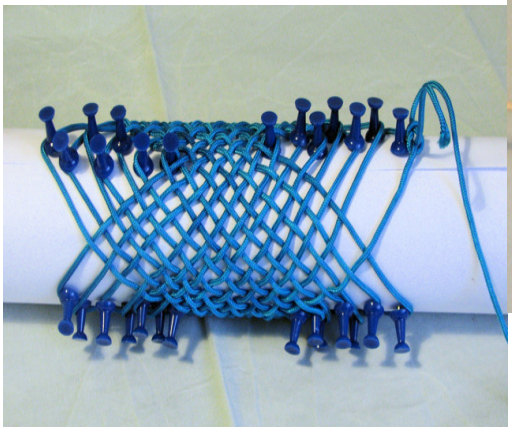


Figure 7 (below)



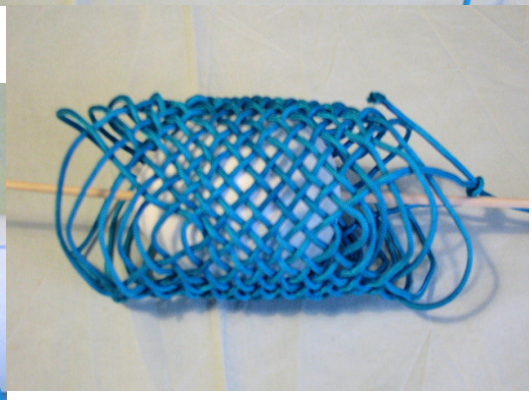
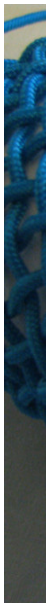
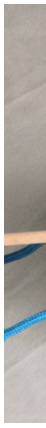


Figure 8 (above)



Fig



Fig

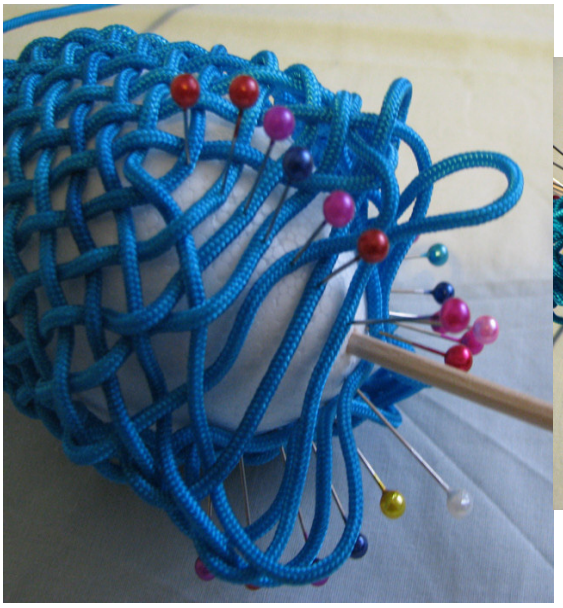


Figure 9 (above)

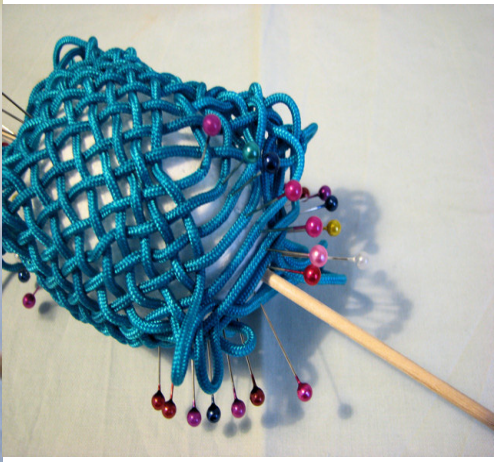


Figure 10 (above)

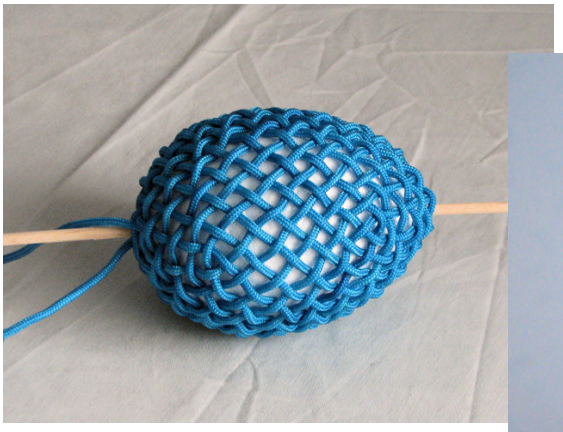
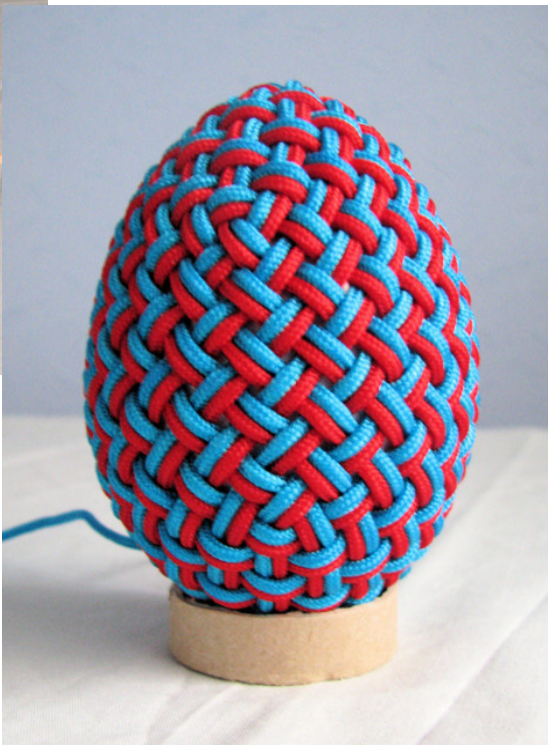


Figure 11 (above)

Figure 12 (below) the finished egg covering



CD/Book Review
prepared by
Phil Cook

"Advanced Knotting" by Maurice McPartlan

I was privileged to proof read some of the early diagrams for this book many years ago, and am now delighted to review the finished article.

Maurice's book comes in electronic format on disc, but it can be easily printed.

The book covers mainly three-dimensional Turk's Heads (crosses, letters of the alphabet and some other shapes), although there are a couple of short sections on macrame and miscellaneous knots too. The unique Turk's Heads certainly represent a new area in knotting, at least to me, as I have personally not seen anything similar.

The theory behind the knots is covered, but most people will probably wish to jump into making the knots themselves (the disc includes A3 diagrams which can be printed to use for pinning cord to in order to construct the knots - for those without an A3 printer, print on A4 and enlarge by photocopier). One does need to read the tying instructions first though!

The macrame and miscellaneous knot instructions are fairly easy to follow, although the Turk's Heads knots are probably not for the faint-hearted! I found it very useful that each knot stated how much cord was needed.

There is a step-by-step example of tying the letter "A", which helps one understand how the diagrams should be used. It might have been useful to include other examples (at least showing tricky stages of laying out the cord on some other knots), but where does one draw the line?

Personally, I tried the Small Latin Cross first. It took time to lay out the flat knot on the diagram before tightening it to become three dimensional. Most decorative knotting requires time to prepare a piece of work before tightening anyway. Before unpinning and tightening, it was imperative to check that the "unders and overs" prepared on the flat diagram alternated properly (i.e. one under, one over, one under, one over etc ...).

Again, just like most decorative knotting, one needs patience in tightening the knots and building them slowly and gently. I must confess that, with my Small Latin Cross, it was exciting when I saw that the 3D knot was taking shape.

For sure, some practice will be required to get used to tying these knots, and one needs to be prepared for mistakes that will inevitably occur, but why should these knots be any different?!

I doubt that many books will have involved so much research, and Maurice should be commended for his long-term commitment and dedication in producing it. The more complicated knots (and there are a few) are not for the beginner, but I am sure that those who devote the time on the various knots will be pleased with the results.

For some examples of what the book covers, visit YouTube (www.youtube.com) and search for "Philatgr8 advanced knotting" - I am reluctant to give the direct link in case the video slide show needs resubmitting at a later date. The images were provided by Maurice himself.

Phil "The Rope" Cook

Future Meetings

IGKT 30th Anniversary AGM 12-13 May 2012
Venue – Hoylake Community Centre, Wirral, Hoyle Road, Hoylake. CH47 3AG, UK [www.hoylakecommunitycentre.org/]
Hoylake is on the end of the Wirral Peninsula and is close to good road, rail and air links. The dynamic city of Liverpool is a short train-ride away. Much of the work organizing this meeting is being undertaken by our recently retired Secretary, Barry Mault, with current Secretary, Margaret Boggs, as his link to the Council. Our thanks are due to both of them for this important task.

The AGM weekend is much more than a formal meeting; it provides an excellent chance to meet other knotters, to exhibit your own work, to demonstrate your craft to members of the public and to enjoy the annual Knot Supper. Do come!

More details will be in the March Knotting Matters. Queries to Margaret (secretary@igkt.net) please.

Advance notice of the Half-yearly meeting October 6-7 2012

This gathering will be held on the beautiful three-masted barque, ***Mercator***, now a museum-ship in the Channel port of Ostend, Belgium.
[http://www.zeilschip-mercator.be/en/x/81/home]
Meeting organiser: Willaert Geert, willge@telenet.be

2013 is coming - whether we like it or not.
Please, please, do get in touch with the Secretary if you have suggestions/offers of help for the location/organisation of the May AGM and October half-yearly meetings in 2013. Forward planning makes life easier for all of us and we need your help.

EAST ANGLIAN BRANCH MEETING

Our latest meeting was held on 1st October 2011, at the Windmill Room, Museum of East Anglian Life, Stowmarket. After general business, news of absent members etc, Des introduced Steve Pretty, Chairman of the Braid Society, who gave a very interesting talk and display of Japanese braids, and some of the equipment which is used to produce them. More about the Braid Society, its journal 'Strands', its worldwide membership, summer schools and other activities was also provided.

The agreed topic for the meeting, 'Sennits and Such' was well-covered by displays of items already made, and practical demonstrations, with at least 10 – 12 members taking part. The question was discussed as to whether enough members could commit their time to undertaking a part in a local event.

The next meeting was arranged for 31st March 2012; the theme of the meeting was agreed as 'Knot Serious', which can be interpreted in many ways: Serious – rescue, towing, climbing, etc. with Not Serious, tricks, fun, entertaining. Friends and visitors are always welcome. Contact Des for more information.

Alison & Irene

French Branch of IGKT

A notice from Jean-Pierre Durand:

The next French Knotting Weekend will take place at the Royal Ropery of Rochefort-sur-mer on the 24th and 25th of March 2012.

Merci!

Spotted recently on Wikipedia, the encyclopedia for the web, a stone carving from the Jain Temple wall frescoes in Ranakpur, Pali District, India (photo credit to Matthew Laird Acred on Dec. 03, 2004). Ranakpur is said to be one of the five holiest places of the Jain community. It includes spectacular architecture and is probably the most complex and extensive of the Jain temples in India. The Ranakpur Jain Temple was built in the 15th century and is the largest Jain temple in India. It was built under the reign of monarch Rana Kumbha and serves to exemplify that decorative knotting has been known for many centuries. I wonder what the knot was called then? Answers please to the Editor at knottingmatters@igkt.net - thanks! If you see any examples of interesting applications of knotting, from the past or the present, please drop us a line? Thank you.

PACIFIC AMERICAS BRANCH

Secretary/Treasurer and all-round good guy Jimmy Ray Williams went with Lindsey Philpott to the La Verne, California, Troop 411 Scout troop meeting in October. The original purpose of the trip was to introduce the scouts (some 50 or so) of this 80+-year-old troop to decorative knotting. The realized purpose of the trip was to get sympathy for Jimmy having suffered from a mild stroke shortly before the presentation, which resulted in his being required to sit out the entire presentation, sucking on candy and water provided by the kindly Boy Scouts. This action by Jimmy ensured that Philpott would present the decorative knot-tying class by himself, reinforcing the idea that Jimmy has no class (just kidding Jimmy)! Jimmy is now recovering at a pace that amazes physicians the world over and he is back to his regular impossible pace of presenting knots and keeping us all in order - way to go Jimmy! We all wish you a complete return to normalcy (or as close as you can get, anyway).

Book Review
by
Colin Grundy

Stringlopedia by Adam Hart-Davis published (UK 2009) by Collins & Brown. ISBN 978-1-84340-548-1 Price UK £9.99

Adam Hart-Davis is probably better known in the UK for his historical series of television programmes on the BBC. This little gem caught my eye in a National Trust bookshop, where its price was considerably reduced giving a hint that it may now be on the remainders list. Glancing inside the cover of this 190-page book, I was soon gleaning odd facts about string and knots that had previously eluded me. Thus it ended up as part of my collection.

The book is lavishly illustrated with cartoon drawings giving a host of facts, both historical and modern, with ways that string (and rope) plays its part in our everyday world and has helped create our past. There is little of the dry stuffy text that fills many knot books, and this should appeal to young and old readers alike.

It tells how string has been (and is) used in music, religion, games and surveying among other subjects. In the Loopy Science chapter, mention is made of string theory, solar energy ropes and HASTOL (Hypersonic Airplane Space Tether Orbital Launch), all of which I knew nothing about until reading this book.

There is a chapter on useful knots, bends and hitches, and how to tie them. The IGKT and the International String Figure Association also get a mention in the section of useful websites.

While this may not be a must have for the serious knot tyer, it is a light hearted read and full of useful facts to bring up when engaging the public in conversation about knots.
CG

Books Reviews

by

Geoffrey Budworth

1. The Turks Head Cookbook, © 2006 Don Burrhus
2. The Turks Head Cookbook – Volume Two, © 2006 Don Burrhus
3. The Globe Knot Cookbook, © 2008 Don Burrhus

This trio of self-published knot manuals of 109, 337 and 205 A4-size pages respectively are spiral bound within acetate (front) and card (back) covers to lie flat for easy reference while one's hands are occupied tying knots. Succinct introductory texts are followed by instructive diagrams created with software specifically designed using Sun Microsystems' Java programming language to portray each knot's surface texture in Mercator (flat-earth) projection, alongside zigzag O-U-O tying recipes or algorithms that enable the user to dip-&-pick between elementary, intermediate and advanced knots.

1. The THC-1 …

requires a tool in the form of a thick rectangular plaque equipped with Allen screws™ that can be raised or retracted, using the Allen key™ or hex wrench supplied, to provide the varied pin set-ups for its knots. Appendix D summarizes all of these pin-settings.
[Go to www.knottool.com to view this device and other excellent tools.]

An innovative square grid – inspired by A#1314 – summarizes not only the THs that can, or cannot, be tied with a single strand, but whether that knot is narrow, square or wide, and in doing so reveals a tidy topographical layout. It also shows that odd (notably prime) numbers of leads or bights yield almost twice as many possible knots. All of the TH knots featured can be achieved with a single-strand. I counted 209 with a regular basket-weave (over-one-under-one) surface texture, including square (36), wide (90) and narrow (83) knots with dimensions up to 20 leads and/or 20 bights.

A further 53 had herringbone or twill weaves. Appendix C to this guide is a neat page finder in the form of a crossword square; simply run a finger across for the required number of leads, and down for bights, to locate the page on which the knot occurs.

2. The THC-2 …
reprints Chapter 1 of the THC – namely, 'The Turk's Head Tool and its Use' – but then, using the earlier format, goes on to herringbone or twill weave THs from 2 to 20 bights, all of which are tied with a single strand around the THC tool. This time I counted 767 knots, subdivided into those with 2-9 facets (339) and 10-20 bights (428). One or two helpful icons appear beside certain knots: an explanation mark, in a road sign triangle, warns of a knot's tendency to collapse or capsize unless tightened very carefully, while a lightning flash shows when a knot with more overpasses than underpasses may be quicker to tie. Appendix G features a pin settings chart.

3. The GKC …
unlike the previous two manuals, has three coloured plates of more than 70 completed knots. Print quality and layout, too, are better. The knots here need different cylindrical tools with alpha-numerically labelled Allen screws.
[Go to www.knottool.com to view this device and other excellent tools.]

The familiar, but slightly modified, computer-generated line drawings and tying algorithms or recipes enable the user to tackle spherical, cylindrical, cuboid and dumbbell-shaped covering knots, of which I counted 153 including 27 (with 9-25 facets), 45 (26-50 facets), 27 (51-75facets), 22 (76-100 facets) and 13 (more than 100 facets), plus 6 (dumbbell shaped, or 'knobs & necks') and 7 (kettlebell shaped, or 'something stuck in the middle'). An optional extra few pages from Ken Burrhus, for those who like algebra, provides two simple formulae – using only powers of 2, square roots, and the value of *pi* – which enable the user to (a) calculate the size of the core for a chosen knot, and (b) estimate the length of cord needed.

Conclusions …
IGKT member Don Burrhus has come up with an easy yet comprehensive series of guides to tackling THs. They and the tools are value for money … although I was required by the UK Border Agency, on behalf of Her Majesty's Revenue & Customs, to pay Import VAT (Value Added Tax) and a Clearance Fee that added an unwelcome extra 30% to my original outlay. Never mind. Knotting – I believe – is caught and taught, done with the heart as much as the head and hands. Aspiring knot mavens should forever be not only students but also disciples. So, having just recently discovered this magnum opus, I have belatedly added its author to my pantheon of knot gods and gurus.

How To Get Published in Knotting Matters

by Lindsey Philpott - Editor

I was asked at the North American Branch meeting in Indianapolis "How do we get published in Knotting Matters"? The answer? It depends.... We spent some time discussing several problems that face individual potential authors, including how interesting they felt their subject might be. You are not alone! Something that many people there wanted was to have more tutorials, more "How-Tos" and above all, resources! Such resources may take the form of materials (books and line), tools or people. Supplies are, of course, limited to one country or another because of the penalty of sending material across oceans. I have experienced the pain of getting books from a land where not only paper is in limited supply but also books printed there are revered for their intrinsic color and form. Those attributes add up to costs that are far greater than I experience for books from the USA. People who know what they are doing with a piece of line to create some of the pieces seen, are another great resource in limited supply because we are not given information about the skills possessed by our fellow knotters. Tools are the other resource that others want to know about. They are revered as an ultimate for those who see tools as the necessary adjunct to their skills, so if you

have a favorite tool, why not try describing why it is your favorite, how you came by the tool (did you make it, buy it or have someone else make it for you?) and where someone else could also get one to try. As for people - well, read about them here! Then share the information in - where else - **Knotting Matters**.

Here are distillations of the salient points garnered by me as a result of the ninety minutes or so we spent discussing the subject of being published in KM and in InterKnot, the newsletter of the NAB:

Have an interesting subject - interesting to you likely means it will be of interest to your fellow knot-tyers also,

Send photographs - we cannot fit thousand-word monographs nearly as well as a good photograph and, well, a picture DOES tell a thousand words - especially if it includes people's names and is a good size (500 kb or more)!

Send your document as a Word file, pdf or a text file and attach the photographs used ***separately*** in one or more e-mails or on a thumb drive. If you embed the photographs in your document I will have to extract them and that reduces the quality. Sending photographs is readily done by using the regular mails so that I can scan them, or sending by a free sending service (www.YouSendIt.com is one such free service), or making them available as e-mail attachments (usually 1 or 2 MB is large enough).

Make the text readable - use personal pronouns ("I" not "one"), active verbs ("tuck" not "tucked") and words that stand out ("cordage" not "string") so as to engage your audience.

Ask yourself - "What would encourage me want to read about this?"

I hope this helps and I look forward to receiving plenty more of your missives (and missiles - controversy makes for interesting reading also!). I look forward to reading your stories!

Sincerely yours, Lindsey (*e*-mail is: **knottingmatters@igkt.net**)

More Branch News

Solent Branch

The International Guild of Knot Tyers SOLENT BRANCH October meeting was well attended - 15 people were present. Ken Yalden opened the meeting with the "Knot of the Day", the Elongated Diamond Knot. Interesting choice as there was some debate about what it is. Then Josh Peake showed us the web site he has built for the Branch. The evening invariably involves some lively discussion, and we were treated to two bones of contention for the sea dogs to gnaw on. First was the naming of knots, sparked off by the bowlines eighty or so variants, which have been given just over two hundred and fifty names. Different parts of the world, and different industries, have given rise to a rich vocabulary of knotting.

The second was the reef knot, Gordon Perry asked us to consider the heavy criticism aimed at the knot. The reef knot can be pulled back and released quickly which makes it useful in some circumstances and very dangerous in others -when climbing for example.

The variety of knots evolved to fulfil a range of needs - to do different things.

After the refreshment and raffle interval, ideas were suggested for next year's meetings. Knot Boards were requested and all of the Branch [members] will be visiting pubs and other likely locations in the hunt for knot boards. Digital cameras will record examples to show what has been done, and how it is presented. Who knows how many pubs will be visited in the name of Knotting?

Andy Hudson
Solent Branch

French Branch

The French branch is growing steadily, with now over 100 members. We have taken part in various festivals over the summer. Our next event will be a dinner in Paris on Friday December 9, starting at 7 pm in the Salon Nautique, 1 Place Balard, Paris, 75015. Jean-Pierre Durand will be taking the role of Chairman for the French branch. Also, a Google discussion group, in French of course, has been set up. Please send a note to Graham MacLachlan at igktfrance@gmail.com if you are interested.

Alaskan Branch
Every Wed. evening 6:30 to 8:00
Anchorage Senior Center
1300 E 19th Avenue, Anchorage
Contact Mike Livingstone
Tel: (1) 907/929-7888

East Anglian Branch
Contact: Des Pawson
Tel: +44(0) 1473 690 090
e-mail: des@despawson.com

French Branch
Contact Jean-Pierre Durand
06 64 00 66 91
durand0547@orange.fr
www.igktfrance.com

German Branch
Contact: Peter Willems
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c/o Schifffahrtsmuseum
Schiffbruecke 39
24939 Flensburg, Germany
Telephone: xx49 173 46 34 679
Email: info@knotengilde.de

Midlands Branch
The Old Swan, Netherton
Contact: Bruce Turley
Tel: 0121 453 4124

Northwest Branch
Contact: Dave Walker
Tel: 01244 682 117

Netherlands
Every last Saturday (except Dec.)
De Hoop, Rotterdam
Contact: Jan Hoefnagel
Tel: 078 614 6002

NAB - Mid-Atlantic Region
Contact: Michael Pollock
See handbook for details

NAB - Knot in the Middle
Contact: Rusty Helms
See Handbook for details

Pacific Americas Branch
Second Tuesday of each month
At the Whale & Ale (upstairs)
San Pedro, California
Contact: Jimmy Williams
Tel: (1) 310/679-6864
e-mail: igktpab@gmail.com

Solent Branch
Second Tues. of even-number months
Fareham Sailing and Motor Boat Club
Fareham, Hants, UK
Contact: Ken Yalden
Tel: +44(0) 23 9225 9280

Surrey Branch
Meetings are held at Guildford District Scout Centre, Nightingale Road, Guildford, starting at 20:00 hrs. Please phone for more details
Contact: Howard Denyer
Tel: +44(0) 1483 536 401
www.surreyknots.org.uk

Sweden
Contact: Christoffer Åström Tel: +46 736 381 731 e-mail: christoffer@knopar.se

West Country Knotters
Last Sat. of odd months @13:00 hrs
The Benjamin Perry Boathouse Activity and Training Centre
Phoenix Wharf, Lower Guinea Street, Bristol BS1 6TJ
Contact: Richard Hopkins for directions
Tel: 0117 986 7146
May be subject to change - call first

West Yorkshire Branch
Contact: David Pearson
Tel: 0113 257 2689

Back cover - an unusual form of kumihimo! Results of the method used by Mac McKenzie are shown on page 43.